

ON THE FRONTIER

“For the glory of God and the furtherance of the gospel”

Intellectual Stupidity

by Linus A. Mathis III

Recently my wife and I elected to subject ourselves to the "world news." Why we did this can only be attributed to a temporary loss of prudence or perhaps errant discernment. I say this because neither the quality or productivity of our lives has ever been enhanced by increasing our knowledge of "current events." In fact, I have yet to meet anyone who has profited by exposure to this abhorrent craving to relate misfortune. I suppose one could argue the need, at times, to raise public or national awareness on injustice. There have been evil deeds exposed and eliminated. But, by-in-large the news media offers little more than a gruesome reveling in wickedness. There is rarely, if ever, a rejoicing in purity. Still, every now and then I convince myself of the need for a minister to be "abreast of things." This I can say, the news media is efficient at reassuring me that I have no "need to know." Usually I come away from the news disgruntled, not enlightened.

I'm in no way suggesting that we go about life with our eyes closed to the world around us. We need to be in touch with our surroundings. We are required to boldly confront wrong doing. However, we are limited in strength to the sphere of our influence. There is little you can do about the potpourri of ills presented by the horde of news

programs. You can pray for God's Will to come to pass, but you don't need gory details for that. Our concern must be primarily with those within our proximity.

Mark 12:30,31

And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment.

And the second is like, *namely* this, Thou shalt love thy neighbour [*plesion* - he who is near, anyone with whom you live or chance to meet] as thyself. There is none other commandment greater than these.

Christians have been given the idea that Christ was talking about people in neighboring countries. We trip over the homeless and needy on our way to mail care packages overseas. Certainly we want to help as many people as possible, but we have limitations. Exposure to world news on a daily basis only serves to frustrate and discourage the common man. Worse yet, it stimulates the desire to hear about the horrific. Charity (the love of God) does not rejoice in iniquity (I Corinthians 13:4-7). Most news programming has done nothing more than build fear and hopelessness.

In the course of this news hour that my wife and I watched there was an interview. A very famous news anchor person conducted a question and answer session with a notable

group of intellectuals. The rational of their discussion is best understood by one of the statements made; "belief in a supreme being or God would decline as education improves." There is a similar concept found in the opening passages of the Bible.

Genesis 3:4,5

And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die:

For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof [of the forbidden fruit], then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.

I guess God still has a small following since we are graduating more and more functional illiterates from our high schools. He should be comforted in the knowledge that a farmer in colonial New York was better educated than a modern barrister. At least some of us are still ignorant enough to believe in God. But then, we live in a world were computer generated graphics and dramatic theme music garnish disaster. Stupid is as stupid does!
